Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A method, for use in a user system (200), of generating an hyperlinked physical copy of an electronic document (203) comprising one or a plurality of hyperlinks, said method comprising the steps of:

- selecting an electronic document (203);
- creating (802) an hyperlink table (201);
- associating (802) said hyperlink table with a physical copy (202) of said electronic document, said physical copy comprising one or a plurality of pages;

for each page of the physical copy:

- identifying (803) in the electronic document, the one or plurality of hyperlink items comprised in the page;
- storing (803) in the hyperlink table an identification of each identified hyperlink item;
- retrieving (803) from the electronic document identification and location of information and/or service associated with each identified hyperlink item on the page;
- storing (803) in the hyperlink table said identification and location of information and/or service associated with each identified hyperlink item;
- retrieving (805) from the electronic document, electronic coordinates of each identified hyperlinked item on the page;

- translating (805) said electronic coordinates into physical coordinates on the page of the physical copy;
- storing (806) said physical coordinates in the hyperlink table.

2. The method according to claim 1 wherein said physical copy (202) is a paper printed copy of said electronic document (203).

3. The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of creating an hyperlink table, comprises the further step of:

- storing in said hyperlink table an identification of the physical copy.

4. The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of identifying (803) in the electronic document, the one or plurality of hyperlink items comprised in the page, comprises the further step of:

- storing in the hyperlink table an identification of the page.

5. The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of translating said electronic coordinates into physical coordinates on the page of the physical copy, comprises the step of:

- defining (804) the relative scale of the physical copy compared with the electronic document.

6. The method according to claim 1 wherein said user system (300) is connected to a communication network (305) comprising one or plurality of servers (306), and wherein the information and/or service associated with each hyperlinked item are located on said one or plurality of servers (306).

7. The method according to claim 1 wherein the information and/or services associated with each hyperlinked item are located on the user system.

8. The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of storing (803) in the hyperlink table said identification and location of information and/or service associated with each identified hyperlink item, comprises the step of:

- storing a destination address in the communication network where the information and/or service associated with the hyperlinked item can be accessed.

9. The method according to claim 1 wherein:

- said communication network (305) is an Internet Protocol (IP) network;
- said servers (306) are Web servers;
- said user system (300) comprises a Web browser;
- said destination address is an Uniform Resource Locator (URL address);
- said information and/or service are Web pages.

10. The method according to claim 1 wherein an hyperlinked item is a word, a letter, an icon, a graphic, a symbol, a mark or any other sign.

11. The method according to claim 1 comprising the further step of:

- storing in the hyperlink table additional information related to said physical document such as title, author, date.

12. The method according to claim 1 wherein each page is a portion of said physical document.

13. The method according to claim 1 comprising the further steps of:

- identifying a page of the physical copy, said page comprising one or a plurality of hyperlinked items;
- identifying position of hyperlinked items comprised in said identified page referring to the hyperlink table associated with the physical copy, said hyperlink table comprising for each page of the document, a list of hyperlink items, and for each hyperlink item, the physical coordinates on said page;
- sending for visualization on an opto-touch foil, the physical coordinates of said hyperlinked items, said opto-touch foil being connected to the user system.

14. The method according to claim 1 comprising the further steps of :

- determining the physical coordinates of a point pressed on said opto-touch foil; said opto-touch foil being placed and aligned over or under the identified page of the physical copy; each one of hyperlinked items on said page corresponding to a visualized position on said opto-touch foil; said opto-touch foil being pressed at a point corresponding to a selected hyperlinked item;
- identifying the selected hyperlinked item corresponding to the physical coordinates of the point pressed on said opto-touch foil referring to the hyperlink table, said hyperlink table comprising the physical coordinates of each hyperlinked item on the identified page;
- identifying and locating information and/or service associated with the selected hyperlinked item referring to the hyperlink table, said hyperlink table comprising for each hyperlinked item of each page of the document the identification and location of the information and/or service associated with the hyperlinked item;
- accessing the information or service associated with the selected hyperlinked item.

15. An hyperlink table generated according to the method according to claim 1.

16. An user system comprising means adapted for carrying out the method according to claim 1.

17. A system comprising:

- an opto-touch foil to be placed over or under a page of a physical document;
- a user system according to claim 1;
- a connection between said opto-touch foil and said user system.

18. The system according to claim 1 wherein the opto-touch foil is sensible to the pressure exercised over any point and comprises a transparent film with light emitting elements for visualizing selected positions on its surface.

19. A computer program comprising computer readable instructions for carrying out the method according to claim 1.